

CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF
UNITED KINGDOM TO ESTABLISH
INQUIRY INTO MURDER OF
NORTHERN IRELAND DEFENSE
ATTORNEY PAT FINUCANE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution introduced by my friend from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH.

I was proud to join my colleagues as an original cosponsor of this important statement by the House of Representatives.

While the peace process in the north of Ireland has been moving along, but unfortunately, not at the pace many of us had hoped for after the acceptance of the Good Friday Agreement by all parties, it is still moving forward.

We saw one example of the process moving forward when all the political parties of the north met on Monday for the first time since the Assembly was suspended 3½ years ago.

I believe these political parties must overcome all of the obstacles for the sake of the people they were elected to represent in November of 2002.

They must elect new ministers to give the people of the north the representational government that they have sought out.

But beyond the issue of setting up the assembly, one of the important things about any peace process is making sure that past atrocities have been fully investigated and the people, who committed them be held responsible, which is why this resolution is so important for the peace process.

The violence that occurred before and after the signing of the historic Good Friday Agreement still remains fresh in the minds of the victim's families and the public as a whole.

To bring about a better trust between the people of the north, the British and Irish Governments agreed to hold public inquiries into high profile murders of human rights defenders like Pat Finucane.

It is time for the British to allow the truth to come out.

The family of Pat Finucane deserves to know the full extent of collusion that existed and caused the death of this husband and father.

The British must live up to their obligations under the Weston Park Agreement and the commitment they made if Judge Cory found evidence warranting a full independent inquiry.

It is time for an independent, judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST ARMER
N. BURKART

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hero and a patriot who was killed while defending our Nation

in Iraq. Army Specialist Armer N. Burkart died this week when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle.

This brave 26-year-old soldier was serving as a gunner with the 1st Battalion of the 10th Division based at Fort Drum in New York. Prior to this tour in Iraq, Specialist Burkart served for nearly a year in Afghanistan.

Specialist Burkart's father, John, says that Armer "was proud to be in the Army. He volunteered for combat. . . he had a nice safe position which he chose to give up." This extraordinary young man had always wanted to be in the Army, following in his grandfathers' tradition of military service in the Navy. In fact, even as a high school student, he served in the ROTC.

America should be grateful for Armer Burkart's honorable service, and we should all remember the heroism of the other men and women who have been serving by his side. America should also be grateful to the loving families these servicemen and women leave behind. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Specialist Burkart's wife, father, and younger brother, as they do to the others who selflessly give of their family time that our Nation and our world may be safe and free.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GARY PURDUE,
MD, FACS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gary Purdue, MD, FACS, is one of my constituents performing life-saving work at the Burn Center at Parkland Health and Hospital System. In addition to his work at Parkland, Dr. Purdue is Professor of Surgery at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and is also a Professor of Anesthesiology and Plastic Surgery. In addition to these achievements, he has served as the President of the American Burn Association and spearheaded efforts to improve research into the treatment of burn injuries, worked to increase critical funding in the field, and furthered the cause of education for the prevention of devastating burn injuries.

Dr. Purdue's work as leader of the ABA is significant because this is the organization that sets the industry standard for this challenging specialization within the field of medicine. Burn professionals, physicians, nurses, fire fighters and emergency personnel practice in every state of the union, playing a significant role in this country's response to emergencies, including terrorism risks which are now part of our world.

The Burn Center at Parkland has been an ACS/ABA verified burn center since 1996, and the integrated in and out patient rehabilitation program gives the burn team a very strong presence treating over 600 new acute burn patients each year. Dr. Purdue's research interests include development and maintenance of a single center 14,500 patient database, causation of injury and high risk patients. He has had over 150 articles published in peer review journals and books.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Purdue on his valuable contributions to the field of burn injury treatment, an

area I have had personal experiences with, and to apprise my colleagues of the American Burn Association and urge them to work with the burn centers and burn professionals in their own districts and states.

A TRIBUTE TO OCTAVIA E.
BUTLER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Octavia E. Butler. Ms. Butler will be greatly missed. The world of literature lost a literary genius whose novels and short stories broke the conventional expectations of African Americans, women, and science fiction writers.

Ms. Butler was a Pasadena, California native who attended John Muir High School. She graduated from Pasadena City College in 1968. Octavia spent most of her adult life in the Pasadena/Altadena area where she lived until just a few years ago when she moved to Seattle, Washington. While Octavia's fans have marveled over her extraordinary literary creations, those who knew her as a friend also marveled at her ability to remain down to earth and unmoved by fame. As an adult, Ms. Butler had traveled all over the world, from the Amazon to Russia, to gather authentic material for her books.

Ms. Butler was an internationally acclaimed science fiction author whose novels explored pressing issues such as race, gender, slavery, poverty, and politics. In 1995, she became the first science fiction writer to receive a \$295,000 genius grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She also received two Hugo Awards and two Nebula Awards for her science fiction works. During her funeral service, on March 11, 2006, the Pasadena City Mayor's office read a proclamation that declared March 17, 2006, to be Octavia Butler Day.

Octavia is the author of many novels, including Patternmaster, Adulthood Rite, Mind of My Mind, and Kindred. For many years, Kindred, which is Pasadena's "One City, One Story" choice this year, was required reading at John Muir High School. The program is designed to broaden and deepen the appreciation for reading.

I ask all Members of the United States House of Representatives to pause to honor a great woman, Octavia E. Butler, who inspired so many people through her words and her vision. She will be missed not only by her family, but by all who were fortunate enough to cross her path or enjoy her novels.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR OF THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF FLOYD BEN-
NETT FIELD

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 75th anniversary of Floyd Bennett Field.